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Hays Urges Americans To Stand Behind Ike In Time 'of Great Peril'

CPYRGHT

Representative Brooks Hays of Little Rock appealed for Americans to shuck their partisan political feelings and "stand beside and behind" President Eisenhower during the crisis in the Middle East.

Hays, a Democrat from Arkansas's Fifth Congressional District, said he felt the Democratic leaders in Congress shared the same feeling.

"This is no time for political vendettas," Hays told the Little Rock Rotary Club luncheon at Hotel Marion.

Hays, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, war called back to Washington from his campaigning for re-nomination when the crisis in Iraq and Lebanon came to a head last week. His talk yesterday was non-political.

He told the Rotarians that "the danger of war is very great." After his speech he said he did not mean by this that war was imminent.

Time of 'Peril'

Hays said he could not divulge classified information he received as a Foreign Affairs Committee member from the State Department. In the meeting with the Department, though, Hays said he was impressed that now is a time of "great peril and danger" to the free world.

"As far as Iraq is concerned, it brought great distress and great surprise to your leaders in Washington," Hays said.

He assured the Rotarians that the United States is not having to rely on information from official Iraqi insurgent sources but that this country has her "own avenues" of information of present activity there.

"One of the great needs of the administration is to sharpen its intelligence services so that another great coup cannot occur," Hays said.

After his talk Hays said he was not inferring that the Central Intelligence Agency had "fallen down on the job in the Iraq crisis. He said the intelligence services needed to be sharpened world-wide. Several congressmen have criticized the CIA for not detecting possible trouble in the

For UN Co-operation

Hays said the United States should continue to work with the United Nations in the crisis. He said it was this nation's gain that the UN had not declined to recognize the delegation representing the insurgent Iraqi government. He said no assurance had been given that the government would be permanent.

Hays said he had supported the establishment of a UN police organization in 1955 and that if it had existed the trouble in the Middle East "would have been lessened."

The United States should continue to be the spokesman for the Western nations, the congressman said, and work to help "perfect" the UN.

Hays said the weapons capabilities of Russia and the United States could make a war "unspeakably devastating." A war would put civilians in American cities in as much danger as servicemen, he said.

The decision of Great Britain to stand behind the United States in Lebanon was to that nation's credit, Hays said.

"It could have said 'you failed us in the Suez area,'" he remarked.

Without British support in the Middle East, the Little Rock congressman said, the present tension "would have been a bleak picture indeed."

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